

[0098]

TABLE 17

Formulation B Lot 15030B	Target VPC	<i>Bacillus coagulans</i> (CFU/g) (% recovery)	<i>Streptococcus Thermophilus</i> (CFU/g) (% recovery)	
Kibble (no dry)	29 × 10E5	27 ± 2 × 10E5	93 8.2 ± 2.0 × 10E5	28
Kibble (dried)	29 × 10E5	29 ± 1 × 10E5	100 11.5 ± 1.3 × 10E5	40

[0099] As shown above the probiotic micro-organisms remain extremely stable in the dual component animal food product of the subject invention

[0100] In general, the proximate weight percent of elements for the lipid center matrix of Examples 3-11 would be 36 wt % protein, 6 wt % ash, 42 wt % fat, 10 wt % carbohydrate, and 6 wt % moisture. The proximate weight percent for the raw batch meal used in the outer shell prior to extrusion is about 13 wt % protein, 7 wt % ash, 6 wt % fat, 4 wt % fiber, 40 wt % carbohydrate, and 10 wt % moisture. Fresh meat can be optionally added to the batch meal prior to extrusion. The protein/carbohydrate ratio would be adjusted to accommodate the meat addition, but the meat would nonetheless raise the fat content. The final product would have a moisture content less than about 12 wt % and a water activity below 0.6.

[0101] One skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the present invention is well adapted to carry out the objects and obtain the ends and advantages mentioned as well as those inherent therein. The dual component animal food described herein are presently representative of the preferred embodiments, are exemplary and are not intended as limitations on the scope of the invention. Changes therein and other uses will occur to those skilled in the art which are encompassed within the spirit of the invention and are defined by the scope of the claims

What is claimed is:

23. A dual texture pet or animal food product comprising:

a soft inner component of a dual texture pet or animal food product containing a mixture of lipid and solid ingredients, the first component having a water activity, a_w , less than about 0.65 and a total moisture content less than about 15 wt %;

a cereal based shell component of the dual texture pet or animal food product containing at least one ingredient comprising a carbohydrate, fat, protein or combination thereof, the shell component having a total moisture content less than about 20 wt %;

wherein the shell component completely surrounds the soft inner component and is formed by the co-extrusion of the soft inner component within the shell component to form one dual component pet or animal food product.

24. The dual texture food product of claim 23, wherein the lipid ingredient is beef tallow.

25. The dual texture food product of claim 23, wherein the first component is processed such that harsh sterilization techniques are not required for preservation.

26. The dual texture food product of claim 23, wherein the first component is processed such that antimicrobial and antimycotic agents are not required for stabilization.

27. The dual texture food product of claim 23, wherein the first component is processed such that the addition of moisture control ingredients is not required.

28. The dual texture food product of claim 23, wherein the food product is for a dog.

29. The dual texture food product of claim 23, wherein the food product is for a cat.

30. The dual texture food product of claim 23, wherein the total moisture content of the first component is between about 8 to 12 wt %.

31. The dual texture food product of claim 30, wherein the total moisture content of the first component is less than about 6 wt %.

32. The dual texture food product of claim 23, wherein the total moisture content of the second component is between about 10 to 12 wt %.

33. The dual texture food product of claim 23, wherein the first component has a water activity, a_w , between about 0.35 to <0.65.

34. The dual texture food product of claim 33, wherein the first component has a water activity, a_w , less than about 0.35.

35. The animal food product of claim 23, wherein the lipid content of the first component is between about 10 to 30 wt % of a total 100% weight of the first component.

36. The animal food product of claim 23, wherein the lipid content of the first component is greater than about 30 wt % of a total 100% of the first component.

37. The animal food product of claim 23, wherein the first component comprises about 40-90 wt % solids and about 10-60 wt % lipids of a total 100 wt %.

38. The animal food product of claim 23, wherein the first component comprises about 20 to 40 wt % of a total 100% weight of the animal food product.

39. The animal food product of claim 23, wherein the mixture of lipids and solids includes a lipid comprising a long- or medium-chain saturated or unsaturated, mono-, di- or tri-acylglycerols.

40. The animal food product of claim 23, wherein the first component further includes an ingredient selected from the group consisting of carbohydrates, fats, proteins and combinations thereof.

41. The animal food product of claim 23, wherein the first component further contains at least one additional ingredient selected from the group comprising nutritive compounds, non-nutritive compounds, functional compounds, pharmaceutical compounds and mixtures thereof.

42. The animal food product of claim 41, wherein the nutritive compounds are selected from the group comprising mineral supplements, vitamin supplements and mixtures thereof.

43. The animal food product of claim 41, wherein the non-nutritive compounds are selected from the group comprising herbal compounds, plant-based extracts and mixtures thereof.

44. The animal food product of claim 23, wherein the mixture of ingredients of the first component includes at least one antioxidant ingredient.

45. The animal food product of claim 23, wherein the mixture of ingredients of the first component includes at least one anti-inflammatory agent.